ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1941.

Gentlemen,

As requested by the Ministry of Health, we present to you an abridged report for the year 1941, without the inclusion of figures relating to population statistics or any reference to war-time industrial, military or domestic undertakings of importance.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	4,771 acres
Population (1939).	9,417
Number of inhabited houses.. ...	2,952
Rateable value	£65,048
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£260 10 0

The chief industries of the district remain practically as in peace time.

Being a reception area for evacuation the population has increased, but the number of evacuees has been substantially less than in the previous year. Hostels and requisitioned houses are dispersed throughout the district, and there is a day-nursery and a social centre for evacuated women under the direction of the Council.

The birth-rate of the district has increased and the death-rate is at it's average figure.

Infant mortality rate for the year is 55 per 1,000 births which is similar to that of England & Wales (viz. 59) and is above the average for the district.

No deaths were recorded due to puerperal causes.
(See also page 6)

HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital and ambulance services remain unchanged. The Health Staff consists of :-

1 Medical Officer of Health	(Part time).
1 Health Visitor	(Whole time).
1 Health Visitor for Evacuees	(Part time).
1 Sanitary Inspector	(Whole time).

Maternity & Child Welfare.

Maternity & Child Welfare clinic has been held weekly for resident mothers & children with the Medical Officer in attendance on alternate weeks. A second clinic has been open every week for evacuated mothers & children with the doctor attending each week. The Health Visitors attend the clinic at every session and are assisted by Voluntary Lady Helpers; the Health Visitors attend all children under 5 at their own homes as well as at the clinic.

Besides the day nursery for infants of mothers who go to work there is a sick bay for children with scabies or impetigo, which has had many fewer patients than in the previous year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. During the year five samples of water from the pipe supply were analysed chemically and bacteriologically, and the reports stated that all were satisfactory and that the quality was good. Consumption in the summer period exceeded the capacity of the main to deliver by gravity and a booster pump was installed to speed up the flow. There were no

extensions of public water supplies during the year. In case of serious emergency, the necessary mains and connections have been made and pumps obtained to use River Welland Water, filtered and chlorinated through the Public Baths plant. Also a list of all existing private wells has been recorded. 58 Houses derive their supply from private wells and the remainder are connected to the public piped supply.

A copy of the result of the analysis and report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 20th November 1941, regarding the last sample from the Town main, is appended :-

Appearance in 2 ft. tube	Clear
Odour.....	Nil
Reaction.....	Alkaline
Hardness.....	---

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	Nil.	Nil.
Chlorine in Chlorides.....	1.5	1.05
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium).	2.4	1.6
Nitrogen in Nitrates.....	Practically nil.	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours....	---	---

Remarks: Coliform organisms absent from 10 c.cs. This sample is a good water suitable for drinking.

Drainage & Sewerage. No extensions have been carried out during the year.

Closet Accomodation. Approximately 4,003 water closets are connected to the town sewerage system, and some 20 outlying properties are on the conservancy system.

Public Cleansing. All houses are provided with dustbins and a weekly collection of refuse, including salvaged materials, is in operation. During the year, 2,665 tons of house and trade refuse were received at the destructor and the following quantities were dealt with as salvage:-

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper.....	79	14
Metals.....	67	4
Textiles.....	13	15
Bottles & Jars	7	14
Bones.....	8	13
	177	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated...	96
Defects or nuisances dealt with..	224
Informal notices served	150
Statutory notices served	0

Inspections.	1st. Visits.	Re-visits.
Dwelling houses (all purposes)...	363	477
Tents, Vans, etc. (human habitation)...	1	2
Regional Slaughter House...	1	401
Food premises	37	117
Dairies and Cowsheds.	16	53
Offensive Trades	3	0
Animal Keeping	12	5
Factories etc	48	6
Other premises	76	74
	557	1135

Dwelling Houses.

Structural repairs effected.	9
Drains and sanitary fittings unstopped or repaired.. ...	27
Dustbins provided	92
Other defects remedied	5

Factories etc.

Defective sanitary arrangements repaired	3

Miscellaneous Nuisances etc.

Drainage defects attended to	23
Offensive accumulations removed...	6
Infestations of rats and mice dealt with	17
Animal keeping nuisances abated...	2
Other defects remedied	8

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Infected rooms fumigated	135
Verminous rooms treated	59
Articles of bedding clothing etc.	
Steam disinfected...	4274
Destroyed	29
Other articles disinfected..	608

(Note. The above articles include Evacuation & Civil Defence Services).

Special classes of Premises & Occupations Subject to Control.

Written consent to establishment of Rag & Bone Dealer renewed..	1

Petrol & Carbide Stores.

	Petroleum Spirit	Carbide of Calcium.
Number of Licences issued...	0	0
Number of licences renewed..	32	2
Number of licences transferred	1	0

Swimming Bath. The only swimming bath in the District is owned by the Council. The water is purified by a Paterson continuous filtration and chlorination plant, capable of accurate control. Daily tests for chlorine content were carried out by the Baths Manager. One sample of water was submitted to bacteriological examination and proved to be highly satisfactory.

HOUSING.

During the year three houses were erected by private enterprise. These brought the total of houses erected in the District since 1919 to 1,050.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

(1)(a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	206
(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	-
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	-
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	22

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 22

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year Nil

4. Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.
Although temporary overcrowding in certain instances has been unavoidable, there has been an improvement in conditions generally. The needs of the present situation arising from the increased population have been continually under supervision.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:-

Trade.	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers only	3
Retailers only	5
Retailers and cowkeepers...	7
Farms and other premises...	22

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 and 1938:

"Pasteurised" Milk	1
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk (Dealers)..	2

Milk Sampling:-

Class	Number of samples taken for bacteriological examinations.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Designated	19	14	5
Ordinary	13	11	2
Total	32	25	7

Retailers and producers have been notified of the results of the samples. Two of the unsatisfactory samples were of milk produced in the Urban Area, and inspections were made and advice given as to means of improvement.

Contraventions remedied at dairies etc: 4

Meat and Other Foods:

During the Year a total of 7,727 animals were slaughtered at the Regional Slaughter House under the Ministry of Food, and all carcases and offals were examined before distribution. The quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 12 tons 5 cwts. 2 qtrs. 8 lbs.

Carcasses Inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed & inspected	1096	384	113	5786	348
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	5	2	102	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	271	109	1	372	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	25.27	29.69	2.65	8.19	5.45
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	8	2	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	73	39	2	-	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	7.39	10.68	1.77	-	5.75

Other food submitted for examination and condemned amounted to 351 lbs

Defects remedied at Food Premises 6

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933:
Licence issued 1

DECONTAMINATION OF FOOD SERVICE.

The arrangements for the treatment of foodstuffs contaminated by poison gas are in the hands of the Sanitary Inspector as Gas Contamination Officer. A Food Treatment Squad, consisting of representatives of the food trades, has been formed as follows:- Confectionery 1, Grocery 6, Greengrocery 1, Meat 5, and 1 motor driver. All personnel have attended a full A.R.P. Anti-gas course of nine lectures, and have qualified in Anti-gas Training, and, in addition, three lectures on the Treatment of Foodstuffs have been given. A number of representatives of other sections of the food trades were also present at the lectures. A depot and site for the decontamination of foodstuffs have been equipped in the Cattle Market and several practical exercises have been carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever	21	Erysipelas	9
Whooping cough	141	Measles	92
Diphtheria	10	Pneumonia	9

Of the Diphtheria cases 9 were uninoculated children, and 1 inoculated; no deaths occurred from Diphtheria

Tuberculosis:- 9 new cases of pulmonary, and 6 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Six deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Diphtheria inoculation:- At the beginning of the year and during the last few months of the preceding year, an active campaign for inoculation was undertaken by the Council with the gratifying result that nearly 80% of children under 16 were inoculated; inoculation was carried out at the Schools, at the Welfare Clinics and by private practitioners in their consulting rooms.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. SCOTT,
Medical Officer of Health.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,
Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS FROM REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES.

(Not for publication).

Total population 11,870

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	Legitimate	145	71	74
	Illegitimate	5	3	2
Still births	Legitimate	4	2	2
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths under one year.	Legitimate	8	4	4
	Illegitimate	0	0	0

Birth-rate: 12.7 per thousand population.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths...	133	65	68

Death-rate: 11.2 per thousand population.

Infant mortality rate: 55 per thousand births.